

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05541 200525Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 IO-13
ACDA-07 /087 W

-----034201 200528Z /23

R 191452Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5676

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MORG, ET

SUBJECT: MORE EPMG DIRECTIVES RELATED TO MOBILIZATION

REF: ADDIS ABABA 5508

SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL MOBILIZATION MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY
EPMG OVER WEEKEND INCLUDED CALLING UPON ALL ABLE-BODIED
ETHIOPIANS, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON MEDICAL PERSONNEL
AND MECHANICS, EXHORTATIONS FOR FURTHER MATERIAL AND FINAN-
CIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR EFFORT, AND CALLS FOR INCREASED
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION. END SUMMARY.

1. OVER WEEKEND NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS COMMAND
ISSUED FIVE MORE DIRECTIVES (TOTAL NOW EIGHT) DESIGNED TO
IMPLEMENT TOTAL MOBILIZATION EFFORT CALLED FOR AUG 20 IN
MENGISTU SPEECH (ADDIS ABABA 5064), ALL OF WHICH FBIS HAS
REPORTED.

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 05541 200525Z

2. FOURTH DIRECTIVE CALLED UPON ALL ABLE-BODIED ETHIOPIANS
TO TAKE ARMS AND LEAVE TO WAR FRONT WITH ALL SPEED. MOBILIZA-
TION APPLIES IN FIRST INSTANCE TO RESIDENTS OF ADDIS ABABA
AND OF SHOA, ARSSI, AND KAFFA REGIONS, WITH OTHER REGIONS
LEFT ON STANDBY FOR TIME BEING. DIRECTIVE ESTABLISHED THREE
CATEGORIES OF AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS, TO WIT THOSE ALREADY

TRAINED AND ARMED, THOSE TRAINED BUT NOT ARMED, AND OTHER PATRIOTIC PERSONS WITH SOME LIMITED FIGHTING EXPERIENCE. EACH REGION IS INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE BEHIND ADEQUATE FORCE OF PEASANTS' AND URBAN DWELLERS' DEFENSE SQUADS TO PROTECT REVOLUTION FROM REACTIONARY FORCES ON HOME FRONT (BY GUARDING FACTORIES, BANKS, GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND BRIDGES). REGISTRATION OF INDUCTEES WAS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, WITH SEVERE PUNISHMENT THREATENED FOR THOSE FAILING TO REPORT.

3. FIFTH DIRECTIVE CALLED ON ALL ETHIOPIANS TO STEP UP MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR EFFORT, TO INCREASE PRODUCTION WITHOUT ASKING FOR EXTRA PAY OR LEAVE, AND TO GIVE UP ONE MEAL A DAY IN ORDER TO MAKE ADDITIONAL FOOD PROVISIONS AVAILABLE TO ARMED FORCES.

4. SIXTH DIRECTIVE ADVISED ALL ETHIOPIANS IN MEDICAL PROFESSION TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR SERVING AT BATTLEFRONT, WHEREAS SEVENTH CALLED ON ALL MECHANICS EMPLOYED IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS TO REPORT WITH NECESSARY TOOLS FOR DUTY WITHOUT DELAY AT GROUND FORCES MAINTENANCE DIVISION IN ADDIS ABABA. EIGHTH DIRECTIVE AGAIN CALLED FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION AND FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST SABOTAGE. IT CALLED ON FACTORY WORKERS TO DOUBLE THEIR PRODUCTION AND ON FARMERS TO INCREASE FARM PRODUCTION AND TO SEND THEIR PRODUCTS TO MARKETS.

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 05541 200525Z

5. OTHER THAN LARGE NUMBER OF TRUCKS AND BUSES ASSEMBLED AT OLD AIRPORT, THERE IS RELATIVELY LITTLE EVIDENCE OF UNUSUAL ACTIVITY AROUND CAPITAL. SEVERAL THOUSAND RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING SOME EMBASSY GUARDS, HEEDED CALL TO ARMS AND WERE REGISTERED AND GIVEN PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS SEPT 17. SOME TRUCKS ALSO MOVED OUT OF CITY SAME DAY, BUT APPARENTLY CONTAINED SUPPLIES FOR MOST PART, RATHER THAN TROOPS. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ONLY THOSE TRUCKS WITH CAPACITY OF OVER 6500 KG ARE ACTUALLY BE REQUISITIONED.

6. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW LARGE NUMBERS OF MEN CAN BE PULLED OFF JOB AND REMAINDER EXPECTED TO DOUBLE PRODUCTION. CALL TO FARMERS TO DELIVER THEIR PRODUCTS TO MARKETS REFLECTS GENERAL TENDENCY AMONG PEASANTS SINCE LAND REFORM TO HOLD ONTO THEIR CROPS PENDING FAVORABLE MARKET PRICES. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S ETHIOPIAN DOCTOR, DECREE ON MEDICAL PROFESSION SIMPLY FORMALIZES INSTRUCTIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN EFFECT FOR WEEKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MOBILIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS05541
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770341-0010
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770951/aaaabqlq.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 504d1343-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ADDIS ABABA 5508
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1231939
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE EPMG DIRECTIVES RELATED TO MOBILIZATION
TAGS: PBOR, MORG, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/504d1343-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009